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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing below of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A support bracket for positioning within a rain gutter that includes an overlying gutter cover panel, said bracket comprising:

a) a substantially L-shaped body including a first leg adapted to be oriented substantially vertically when the bracket is installed in a gutter, and a second leg adapted to be oriented substantially horizontally when the bracket is installed in a gutter, the first leg including a mounting surface adapted to contact a rear wall of a gutter and a front surface spaced from the mounting surface and connected therewith by a central panel that extends between the mounting surface and the front surface;

b) at least one first bore extending through the first leg toward the mounting surface and generally aligned with the second leg for receiving a bracket fastener for securing the bracket to a substantially vertical building surface adjacent to a roof edge;

c) at least one second bore extending into the second leg for receiving a cover panel fastener for securing a front edge of the gutter cover panel to the bracket;

d) engagement means carried by the second leg for engaging and supporting a front wall portion of a gutter; and

e) upwardly-facing, flat support surface means carried by the first leg for engaging a rear surface portion of the gutter cover panel.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A bracket in accordance with claim 1, wherein the first leg includes at least two first bores spaced from each other along the first leg.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 1, for positioning within a rain gutter that includes an overlying gutter cover, said bracket comprising:

a) a substantially L-shaped body including a first leg adapted to be oriented substantially vertically when the bracket is installed in a gutter, and a second leg adapted to be oriented substantially horizontally when the bracket is installed in a gutter, the first leg including a mounting surface adapted to contact a rear wall of a gutter;

b) at least one first bore extending through the first leg toward the mounting surface and generally aligned with the second leg for receiving a bracket fastener for securing the bracket to a substantially vertical building surface adjacent to a roof edge;

c) at least one second bore extending into the second leg for receiving a cover fastener for securing a front edge of the gutter cover to the bracket, wherein the second bore is a blind bore;

d) engagement means carried by the second leg for engaging and supporting a front wall portion of a gutter; and

e) support means carried by the first leg for engaging a rear portion of the gutter cover.

Claim 4 (original): A bracket in accordance with claim 1, wherein the engagement means is a hook member that is adapted to engage a reentrant lip carried at an upper front edge of a gutter.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A bracket in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support surface means is a surface inclined in a downward direction from a plane defined by the mounting surface and extending toward the gutter front wall engagement means.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A bracket in accordance with claim 5, wherein the support surface means is inclined at an inclination angle of from about 85° to about 60° relative to the mounting surface.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A bracket in accordance with claim 5, wherein the support surface means is inclined relative to the mounting surface at an inclination angle of about 75°.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bracket in accordance with claim 1, including a stop surface carried by the second leg for abutment with and positioning relative to the bracket of a front edge of a gutter cover panel.

Claim 9 (original): A bracket in accordance with claim 8, wherein the stop surface is positioned below an opening of the at least one second bore.

Claim 10 (original): A bracket in accordance with claim 1, including at least one aperture in the bracket body for receiving a fastener for fastening an end cap relative to the bracket.

Claim 11 (original): A bracket in accordance with claim 10, wherein the at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in the first leg.

Claim 12 (original): A bracket in accordance with claim 10, wherein the at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in the second leg.

Claim 13 (original): A bracket in accordance with claim 10, wherein at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in the first leg, and at least one bracket body aperture is positioned in the second leg.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A support bracket for positioning within a rain gutter that includes an overlying gutter cover panel, said bracket comprising:

a) a substantially L-shaped body including a first leg adapted to be oriented substantially vertically when the bracket is installed in a gutter, and a second leg fixedly connected with the first leg and adapted to be oriented substantially horizontally when the bracket is installed in a gutter, the first leg including a mounting surface adapted to contact a rear wall of a gutter and a front surface spaced from the mounting surface and connected therewith by a central panel that extends between the mounting surface and the front surface;

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b) at least one first bore extending through the first leg toward the mounting surface for receiving a bracket fastener for securing the bracket to a substantially vertical building surface adjacent to a roof edge;

c) at least one second bore extending into the second leg for receiving a cover panel fastener for securing a an intumed front edge of the gutter cover panel to the bracket;

d) engagement means carried by the second leg for engaging and supporting a front wall portion of a gutter; and

e) upwardly-facing, flat support surface means carried by the first leg for engaging a rear surface portion of the gutter cover panel.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A support bracket for positioning within a rain gutter that includes an overlying gutter cover panel, said bracket comprising:

a) a substantially L-shaped body including a first leg adapted to be oriented substantially vertically when the bracket is installed in a gutter, and a second leg adapted to be oriented substantially horizontally when the bracket is installed in a gutter, the first leg including a mounting surface adapted to contact a rear wall of a gutter and a front surface spaced from the mounting surface and connected therewith by a central panel that extends between the mounting surface and the front surface;

b) at least one first bore extending through the first leg toward the mounting surface and generally aligned with the second leg for receiving a bracket fastener for securing the bracket to a substantially vertical building surface adjacent to a roof edge;

c) engagement means carried by the second leg for engaging and supporting a front wall portion of a gutter;

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d) a contact surface carried by the second leg between the first leg and the engagement means for contact with ~~a~~ an inturned end of the overlying gutter cover outer-end panel; and

e) upwardly-facing, flat support surface means carried by the first leg for engaging a rear portion of the gutter cover panel.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A bracket in accordance with claim 15, including at least one second bore extending into the second leg for receiving a cover panel fastener for securing a front edge of the gutter cover to the bracket.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A support bracket in accordance with claim 16, for positioning within a rain gutter that includes an overlying gutter cover, said bracket comprising:

a) a substantially L-shaped body including a first leg adapted to be oriented substantially vertically when the bracket is installed in a gutter, and a second leg adapted to be oriented substantially horizontally when the bracket is installed in a gutter, the first leg including a mounting surface adapted to contact a rear wall of a gutter;

b) at least one first bore extending through the first leg toward the mounting surface and generally aligned with the second leg for receiving a bracket fastener for securing the bracket to a substantially vertical building surface adjacent to a roof edge;

c) at least one second bore extending into the second leg for receiving a cover fastener for securing a front edge of the gutter cover to the bracket, wherein the second bore is a blind bore;

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d) engagement means carried by the second leg for engaging and supporting a front wall portion of a gutter;

e) a contact surface carried by the second leg between the first leg and the engagement means for contact with a gutter cover outer end panel; and

f) support means carried by the first leg for engaging a rear portion of the gutter.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A bracket in accordance with claim 15, wherein the contact surface includes a stop for engagement with an edge of the gutter cover outer end panel.